

Thornbury Primary Newsletter

May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had another busy term in school. This newsletter is full of exciting and varied events the children across the school have been involved in.

Over the past few weeks, it has been a pleasure to watch children out and about in the school grounds, enjoying learning together in the woodland areas. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful grounds at Thornbury and this, and our proximity to local nature reserves, means children experience learning in a rich diversity of natural environments.

With the help of **The Friends of Thornbury**, we have recently bought and installed a **defibrillator**. This is stored in an accessible place near the front entrance of the school. We hope that we are never in a position where we have to use it, however we are delighted to have it and during school hours, should someone in the neighbourhood need it, it is here for the use of all.

Please note we have had to change of date for **New Class Day to 18th July**, however if you have a child joining us in Foundation in September their days remain the same as sent out to you in the letter.

We are delighted to inform you that from September we will be welcoming a small number of Foundation Stage, Y1 and Y2 pupils in to the Language Support Centre. In preparation, the whole school will be learning some simple classroom signing and practising it in the second half of the summer term. Watch out for this and see if your child can teach you a few of these!

A huge well done to the children in the **Sunshine Club** who performed for the whole school this week. Their assembly was about all the exciting things they learn and do together in the club, and how much they enjoy it. They are looking forward to sharing it with their parents and carers on Fri 21st July at 2.30pm.

Polling Day - Reminder, children will require a packed lunch on this day unless you have already ordered a school packed lunch. Pick up and drop off: Y3,4,5,6 as normal, FS,Y1,2 via Drama Hall doors. **NB: The top gate on Miller Way will be locked all day.**

Mufti Day - In support of the Armed Forces Day, we will be holding a red, white and blue mufti day on 23rd June. A donation of 50p will be used in support of the trim trail we are hoping to have installed on the school grounds.

Facebook - we will be launching this after half term - watch out for the letter about this.

Remember the children aren't back in until Wednesday!

Happy half term holiday! Claire Hardisty

Schools Challenge - Plymouth Half Marathon

Our amazing Year 6 Schools' Challenge participants raised a fantastic £850 for their chosen charity, The Lullaby Trust. Committed to the running club for 12 weeks, they then ran the last mile on the Hoe during the Plymouth Half Marathon. Well done - the school and community are all proud of you all! The Lullaby Trust are visiting the Thornbury to collect a cheque and meet the fundraisers on the 15th June.

Contacting school - 01752 302600

We are always happy to talk to families, so if you would like to help, or have any queries or worries, do speak to any staff member and we will do our best to help. I am around in school first thing, so after dropping off your child, come round to Reception if you would like to speak to me, or pass a note to the adult on the door and I will get back to you. Our latest newsletter is always posted on the school website which can be accessed through the school website:

www.thornburyprimaryschool.co.uk Regards Claire Hardisty

School Lunch News

The new summer menu has been published and can be found on the school website for easy reference:

http://www.thornburyprimaryschool.co.uk/downloads/school_meals_menu.pdf

Congratulations to George Telford who won the book token for the 'What's in the Fridge?' promotion.

On Friday 23rd June, there will be an Armed Forces meal promotion, consisting of

- Military meatballs and pasta
- Captain Major Mac and cheese
- Jacket potatoes with Private Pepperoni and Cheese, Brigadier Beans or Chief Cheese,
- Champion Chocolate cake and chocolate sauce.

This is in support of Plymouth's Armed Forces Day, which will be held on 24th June, 10:00 am to 10:30 pm at Hoe Park, Plymouth.

DATES for your Diary

(Full dates are published on the school website)

Monday 29th May - Monday 5th June - School Closed

Tues 6th June	Non Pupil Day
Wed 7th June	Children return to school
Thurs 8th June	Polling Day
Mon 12th June	Start of Transition Visits for new Foundation Stage
Wed 14th June	New Foundation 17 Parent Meetings, 3.15pm & 6.15pm
Fri 16th June	Y5 RG Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Fri 23 rd June	3/4PA Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Fri 30 th June	Y2 Mrs Pring's Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Week of 3 rd July	Y6 Transition visits to Tor Bridge High
Tues 4 th July	Annual Reports to be sent home
Thurs 6 th July	Foundation Stage Sports Afternoon
Fri 7 th July	Y1 JH Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Wed 12 th July	Parents' Evening
Thurs 13 th July	Summer Fayre - 2.30pm
Tues 18th July	NB CHANGE OF DATE - New Class Day
Thurs 20 th July	Y6 Awards Evening 5.30pm & Y5/6 Party 7.00-8.30pm
Tues 25 th July	Last day for children
Wed 26 th July	Non-Pupil Day

Meal Time Assistant, Sunshine Club and Cleaner Vacancies

We have a vacancies for a new MTA, Sunshine Club assistant (am) and for a cleaner. Combining two of these roles would give a candidate 16 hours per week.

If you are interested, please enquire at the school office. Thank you

Letter from the Duchess of Cambridge

As the families of the Lower Juniors children will know, at the end of the spring term, the children set up and hosted an exhibition of their learning in art and geography linked to European countries and artists. The purpose of this exhibition was also to raise money for charity and share their work with families and especially chosen VIP guests.

As the charity the children chose to raise money for was The Art room, (a charity who use art activities to help children with mental health difficulties), the children decided to invite the charity's patron: HRH The Duchess of Cambridge to the exhibition! While unfortunately she wasn't able to attend in person, to their great delight the Lower Juniors did receive a personal letter from Kensington Palace with the Duchess' coat of arms, thanking them for their kind invitation, and fundraising efforts and expressing her great interest in the children's project.

As the final icing on the cake for all the children's hard work and a very special project, the Lower Juniors have also managed to raise the total of £80.00 for the Art room charity and received a special letter of thanks for their efforts from the charity's director.

School Council

Thornbury recently hosted a MAT School Council meeting on the topic of outdoor learning. Children from the five MAT schools enjoyed an afternoon whittling wood to roast marshmallows over the fire, which they enjoyed with cups of hot chocolate. Children shared photographs of their school grounds and celebrated the things that they enjoy doing outside.

This term Thornbury also hosted an outdoor learning afternoon where Foundation teachers from other MAT schools could come and see how we incorporate outdoor learning throughout the Early Years curriculum.

Lots of ideas were shared and teachers went away with practical activities to inspire staff and children in their own schools.



Science Club started this term and had an excellent uptake of 20 children. So far, they have learnt how to turn milk into 'plastic' and make lava lamps - I'm sure they will be enthusiastic to demonstrate their discoveries over the half-term break...enjoy!



Integrated Project Day

Before the Easter break, all the children across the school took part in an exciting Integrated Project Day around the theme of food.

We were contacted by a local café to help make it look and feel more family friendly with a range of our work. The children led their learning, first by selecting a subject area that they enjoy and felt confident in and leading the direction of the day.

Fun was had by all and there was a buzz of creativity across the school. We now look forward to sharing our work with 'Al's Café' including a food aerobics dance routine, a willow sculpture, food music, a selection of poems and creative writing, new menus, a small business plan and a huge range of paintings, drawings and prints.

Whole School Outdoor Day

Following the success of last year's Whole School Outdoor Day, this year we will be running another event on Thursday 29th June.

Pupils and staff will be treated to a day of activities designed to bring learning outside the classroom and into the natural environment. The RSPB will be running a science 'bio-blitz' throughout the course of the day, which will be part of the 'Schools Wild Challenge.'

Staff from Poole Farm, a local nature partnership hub run by Plymouth City Council, will be running a natural pigment painting workshop.

We will also be joined by the Friends of Ham Woods, who will be offering children the opportunity to try traditional crafting techniques such as rush weaving and woodcraft.

Earth Jump will be offering forest school skills as well as camp fire activities.

A message from Mrs Berna - Well done to all the children who worked SO hard and performed SO WELL at the Music assembly this week. What a show and what a lot of hard work you all did! The children can rightly be very proud of themselves. Letters about lessons for September will come out in the next few weeks to the whole school so if you're thinking about lessons please be sure to reply promptly as they are offered on a first come first served basis. Keep twiddling those fingers!!

May

Foundation - Miss Gerrard & Mrs French

Foundation received a mysterious package in the post. We found some clues in a story sack, which revealed a book called, 'The Journey.' We used talk for writing actions to learn different parts of the story, which we shared in our assembly. In maths, we have made a pictogram of the different ways that we travel to school. We have used money to pay for trips on the bus in the role-play area. We used balsa wood to make models of different types of transport, and have been using woodworking tools to construct a sandpit in the outdoor area. We are looking forward to our trip to Pennywell farm in July.

Y4 - Miss Walsh & Mr Abraham

In Maths this half term, Year 4 have been working very hard developing their reasoning skills. When presented with a Maths question they have started by asking themselves, what do I know?, as well as what don't I know? Pictures and jottings have also been used to aid thinking through a question before beginning to calculate an answer.

In Literacy, we are coming to the end of a poetry unit on the theme of Cats, reading poems including the classic poems by TS Eliot. One particular poem we have used as the model for writing our own other animal poems. These poems when finished we plan to send to the poet Rachel Rooney who inspired us.

Y1 - Mrs Turner & Miss Hounslow

Our project this term has been 'The Great Fire of London' and we have enjoyed working in our groups with the Year 2 children. We have made fire music, created fire pictures and role-played using the green screen. In Literacy, we have learnt about similes and how they are used in poems. We used them to write our own fire poems. We have enjoyed learning in the outdoor area for music, maths and science. We even made wild flower books!

Y5 - Miss Ives-Owen & Miss Greenacre

In Literacy, Year 5 have been exploring poems and diary entries. Our focus has been developing character and descriptive language to create our own pieces of writing. We've also used our enquiry skills in Science by creating and carrying out our own investigations. Additionally, we have learnt about how Plymouth has developed from a small fishing village into a thriving city.

Y2 - Mrs Pring, Mrs Mantell & Miss Dymond

This term has produced a wealth of cross-curricular learning. Our Great Fire of London sessions involved art, history, drama, D&T, ICT and music. Many of these sessions involved learning within the outdoors, which inspired language, ideas and opinions.

Minibeasts and habitats is our focus until July. The children have been busy collecting identifying and classifying all of the interesting creatures found.

Finally, the children displayed exceptional focus and resilience during May as they completed various reading and maths SATS booklets. We are proud of their efforts to apply their learning and you should be too.

Y6 - Mr Wallis & Mr Line

Year 6 have done themselves proud this term: they really persevered and tackled the SATs with everything they had. Well done all - you should be proud. The children all wanted to say a big thank you to their families for helping them with revision. Researching scientific questions and conducting experiments has been the focus in science, and it has been great to see the children so hands on, having fun and getting really stuck into their learning. As well as all this, they have even been out exploring the outdoor area and using sticks to create symmetrical insects in maths.

Y3 - Mrs Aspen & Miss Dymond

In English, we have performed some of our favourite poems and are now writing our own - all about dogs. In maths, we have been looking at written methods as well as getting practical with topics i.e. measurement. In project, we have learnt all about Italy by comparing the two cities of Plymouth and Naples, which has led us on to our exciting topic about the Romans and their achievements. Our classrooms look amazing with our wonderful homemade Roman shields hanging up! We have also continued to learn keyboards each week, as well as designing our own intricate Rangoli patterns, which link into our learning about Hinduism in RE.

Other News

The week of 10th July is 'Woodland Week' a celebration of getting out and about in Plymouth's wonderful leafy places.

Year 5 pupils will be heading down through the Bircham Valley Nature Reserve to visit Poole Farm. Y5 will be exploring the activities on offer at the centre and whilst we are hoping for good weather, please prepare for all eventualities!